

SENATE BILL 2858  
By Haynes

AN ACT to secure to all local government employees the political freedoms enjoyed by every citizen of Tennessee and to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 19, Part 2.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 19, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new appropriately designated section:

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any county, municipal, metropolitan, or other local governmental charter to the contrary, and notwithstanding the provisions of any resolution or ordinance adopted by any such county, municipality or other local governmental unit to the contrary, every employee of every local governmental unit shall enjoy the same rights commonly enjoyed by every other citizen within the state of Tennessee, to the extent herein provided, including the right to be a candidate for any state or local political office, the right to participate in political activities by supporting or opposing political parties, political candidates, and petitions to governmental entities; however, the city, county, municipal, metropolitan or other local government shall not be required to pay the employee's salary for work not performed for the governmental entity;

(b) Unless otherwise authorized by law or local ordinance, an employee of a municipal government or of a metropolitan government with a population of over one

hundred thousand (100,000), according to the 1990 federal census or any subsequent federal census, shall not be qualified to run for elected office in the local governing body of such local governmental unit in which the employee is employed.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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